



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio  
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc  
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse  
101 West Lombard Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800  
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462  
410-209-4885  
FAX 410-962-3091  
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT  
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA  
410-209-4885**

**DISTRICT HEIGHTS MAN CONVICTED OF ARMED BANK ROBBERIES  
FACES LIFE IN PRISON**

**GREENBELT, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 a federal jury found Willie Lawson, age 27, of District Heights, Maryland guilty of conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery, two counts of armed bank robbery and two counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence under the federal firearm statute, 18 U.S.C. 924(c).

The use of a firearm convictions relate to two robberies of Bank of America branch banks: one on December 13, 2001 at 4821 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, Maryland where \$15,690 was stolen; and one on February 12, 2002 at 3413 Kenilworth Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland where \$20,112 was stolen..

For each of the two convictions under 18 U.S.C. 924(c), Lawson faces a maximum penalty of life in prison, and a minimum of 25 years in prison (50 years total for both convictions) and a fine of up to \$250,000. The mandatory minimum sentences cannot run concurrently with any other sentences, including incarceration imposed for the underlying bank robbery offense. Lawson also